

August 18, 2000

Return address / 18252 Avenue 20
Madera.CA.93637

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr.Ritchie,

We are a sixth generation family in Madera County. We are business people and we are also farmers. Our beginnings like many Americans of years past started close to the soil as farmers. We also are considerate in working with environmentalist, blending those needs with needs of community.

We are proud of the products we produce and the fact that they are exportable and we as a nation need balanced trade. United States production of food and fiber are necessary strategic products. Our central California's East-side economies are built around agriculture. The tax bases of these local economies are almost totally agriculturally dependent.

Our population growth and growing economies require additional water storage on already contained rivers. We need to store more flood water, store for coming drought periods, commit to groundwater recharging and in the future store more water for reasonable river restoration programs.

We will support programs that demonstrate commitments to continued local control over our destiny. We know what the role of the State and Federal governments should be. Local water resource control can not be handed over to our State and Federal governments.

The present Cal-Fed plan focuses on the Eco system restoration at the expense of jobs and communities. It also places too much emphasis on Metropolitan water districts receiving water supplies from our region, again sacrificing our way of life and our children's future. Most communities are asleep about what is being proposed. If this is enacted as it stands, when awakened, the valley communities will roar loudly and boldly, calling this "foul play".

Sincerely,



William B. Pitman
Sixth Generation Resident
of Madera County
Farmer/Businessperson

CC: Madera County Farm Bureau